CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method performed at a data distribution device, the method comprising:

2   determining whether a message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be modified

3   has been received;

4   if the message has been received, identifying a rule template associated with the data

5   conveyance rules, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter;

6   sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the rule template and the

7   parameter;

8   determining whether a message comprising a specification of the parameter has been

9   received; and

10   if the message has been received, creating a rule by binding the rule template with the

11   specified parameter.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a natural language

2   description of a business function of a data conveyance rule created with the rule template.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a natural language

2   description of the parameters for the rule template.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   identifying a set of rule templates associated with the data conveyance rules to be

3   modified;

4   sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule templates;

5   and

6   determining whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set

7   has been received.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising translating the rule into a rule engine

2   format.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the rule engine format comprises Jrules.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining whether a message comprising a subscription request has been received;

3   if a subscription request has been received, identifying data conveyance rules associated

4   with the subscription request; and

5   sending data in accordance with the identified rules.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the identified rules are associated with a user of

2   a data output device.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   associating one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;

3   parsing the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and

4   sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated template,

5   the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.

1   10. A system comprising:

2   a data distribution device comprising:

3   memory operable to store:

4   a repository comprising data conveyance rules and rule templates

5 associated with the data conveyance rules, and

6   a rule editor for modifying the data conveyance rules and the rule

7 templates; and

8   a processor operable to:

9   determine whether a message indicating that a set of the data conveyance

10 rules is to be modified has been received,

11   if the message has been received, identify a rule template associated with

12 the set, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter,

13   generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the

14 template and the parameter,

15   determine whether a message comprising a specification of the

16 parameter has been received, and

17   if the message has been received, create a rule by binding the rule

18 template with the specified parameter.

1   11. The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operable to:

2   identify a set of rule templates associated with the set of data conveyance rules to be

3 modified;

4   generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule

5   templates; and

6   determine whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set has

7   been received.

1   12.   The system of claim 10, wherein:

2   the memory is further operable to store a rule translator; and

3   the processor is further operable to translate the rule into a rule engine format.

1   13.   The system of claim 10, wherein:

2   the memory is further operable to store a rule engine; and

3   the processor is further operable to:

4   determine whether a message comprising a subscription request has been

5   received,

6   if a subscription request has been received, identify data conveyance rules

7   associated with the subscription request, and

8   send data in accordance with the identified rules.

1   14.   The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operable to:

2   associate one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;

3   parse the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and

4   generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated template,

5   the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.

1 15. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable

2 to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3 determining whether a message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be modified

4 has been received at a data distribution device;

5 if the message has been received, identifying a rule template associated with the data

6 conveyance rules, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter;

7 generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the rule template and

8 the parameter;

9 determining whether a message comprising a specification of the parameter has been

10 received; and

11 if the message has been received, creating a rule by binding the rule template with the

12 specified parameter.

1 16. The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause

2 one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3 identifying a set of rule templates associated with the data conveyance rules to be

4 modified;

5 generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule

6 templates; and

7 determining whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set

8 has been received.

1   17.   The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause

2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising translating the rule into a rule engine

3   format.

1   18.   The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause

2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3   determining whether a message comprising a subscription request has been received;

4   if a subscription request has been received, identifying data conveyance rules associated

5   with the subscription request; and

6   sending data in accordance with the identified rules.

1   19.   The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause

2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3   associating one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;

4   parsing the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and

5   generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated

6   template, the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.

1   20.   A method performed at a data output device, the method comprising:

2   determining whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be

3   modified has been received;

4   if the command has been received, sending a message indicating that data conveyance

5   rules are to be modified;

6   determining if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a rule template

7   and a parameter has been received;

8   if the message has been received, generating the user interface;

9   determining whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has been

10   received; and

11   if the command has been received, sending a message comprising a specification of the

12   parameter.

1   21.   The method of claim 20, wherein the user interface comprises a natural

2   language description of a business function of a data conveyance rule created with the rule

3   template.

1   22.   The method of claim 20, wherein the user interface comprises a natural

2   language description of the parameter for the rule template.

1   23.   The method of claim 20, further comprising:

2   determining whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

3   templates has been received;

4   if the message has been received, generating the user interface;

5   determining whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been

6   selected has been received; and

7   if the command has been received, sending a message indicating selection of one of the

8   templates in the set.

1   24.   The method of claim 20, wherein the rule template comprises a rule template for

2   one of the data conveyance rules.

1   25.   A system comprising:

2   a data output device comprising:

3   a user input device operable to receive a user command;

4   a display device operable to present a user interface; and

5   a processor operable to:

6   determine whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are

7   to be modified has been received,

8   if the command has been received, generate a message indicating that

9   data conveyance rules are to be modified,

10   determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a

11   rule template and a parameter has been received,

12   if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

13   determine whether a command indicating specification of the parameter

14   has been received, and

15   if the command has been received, generate a message comprising a

16   specification of the parameter.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the processor is further operable to:

2   determine whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

3   templates has been received;

4   if the message has been received, generate the user interface;

5   determine whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been

6   selected has been received; and

7   if the command has been received, generating a message indicating selection of one of

8   the templates in the set.

1   27.   An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable

2   to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3   determining whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be

4   modified has been received at a data output device;

5   if the command has been received, generating a message indicating that data

6   conveyance rules are to be modified;

7   determining if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a rule template

8   and a parameter has been received;

9   if the message has been received, generating the user interface;

10   determining whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has been

11   received; and

12   if the command has been received, generating a message comprising a specification of

13   the parameter.

1   28.   The article of claim 27, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause

2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

3   determining whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of

4   rule templates has been received;

5   if the message has been received, generating the user interface;

6   determining whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been

7   selected has been received; and

8   if the command has been received, generating a message indicating selection of one of

9   the templates in the set.

1   29.   A system comprising:

2   a data output device operable to:

3   determine whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be

4   modified has been received,

5   if the command has been received, send a message indicating that data

6   conveyance rules are to be modified,

7   determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

8   templates has been received, the user interface comprising natural language descriptions of

9   business functions of data conveyance rules created with the templates,

10   if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

11   determine whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has

12   been selected has been received,

13   if the command has been received, send a message indicating selection of one of

14   the templates in the set,

15   determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the selected

16   rule template and a parameter of the selected rule template has been received, the user interface

17   comprising a natural language description of the parameter,

18   if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

19   determine whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has

20   been received, and

21   if the command has been received, send a message comprising a specification of

22   the parameter; and

23   a data distribution device operable to:

24   determine whether the message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be

25   modified has been received,

26   if the message has been received, identify a set of rule templates associated with

27   the data conveyance rules to be modified,

28   send the message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

29   templates,

30   determine whether the message indicating selection of one of the templates in

31   the set has been received,

32   identify a parameter for the selected template,

33   send the message specifying a user interface corresponding to the selected rule

34   template and a parameter of the selected rule template,

35   determine whether the message comprising a specification of the parameter has

36   been received,

37   if the message has been received, create a rule by binding the rule template with

38   the specified parameter,

39   translate the rule into a rule engine format,

40   determine whether a message comprising a subscription request has been

41   received,

42   if a subscription request has been received, identify data conveyance rules

43   associated with the subscription request, and

44   send data in accordance with the identified rules.